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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1408th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 29 July 1992, at 10 a.m.

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| Chairman: | Mr. SLABY (Vice-Chairman) | (Czechoslovakia) |
| later: | Mr. LOHIA (Chairman) | (Papua New Guinea) |

- Statement by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire
- Question of New Caledonia (continued)
- Question of Western Sahara

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- Question of New Caledonia (continued)

- Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (continued)

- Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa (continued)

- Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementaiton of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (continued)

- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: report of the Chairman; report of the Secretary-General (continued)

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Slaby (Czechoslovakia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF COTE D'IVOIRE

The CHAIRMAN: Before we turn to the first item on our agenda for this morning, I call on the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

Miss KETE (Côte d'Ivoire) (interpretation from French): I wish to place it on record that had my delegation been present during yesterday afternoon's vote on the draft decision relating to St. Helena, it would have voted in favour.

QUESTION OF NEW CALEDONIA (A/AC.109/1120 and A/AC.109/L.1787) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to draw the attention of members to a draft resolution on this item, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1787.

By a decision taken at the 1406th meeting, held on 28 July, the Committee granted a request for hearing from Mr. Rock Wamytan of the Front de libération nationale kanake socialiste.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Rock Wamytan (Front de libération nationale kanake socialiste (FLNKS)) took a place at the petitioners' table.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on Mr. Wamytan.

Mr. WAMYTAN (interpretation from French): On behalf of the Front de libération nationale kanake socialiste (FLNKS), I wish first of all to congratulate Ambassador Lohia on his election to the chairmanship of the Special Committee. I wish also to congratulate the other Committee officers and to commend the entire Committee, which has constantly worked for the emancipation of colonial peoples.

Again today the Kanak people, which I represent before this Committee, duly values the honour the Committee has done it by enabling it to come here and express its hopes and expectations.

(Mr. Wamytan)

As the Committee is aware, since 1988 our country has been engaged in a process which is due to conclude in 1998 with a self-determination referendum in which our institutional future will be decided.

The signing of the Matignon Agreements in 1988 by our movement, together with the Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République (RPCR) and France, remain an extraordinary undertaking and an act of heavy responsibility in our struggle for independence, because, quite simply, we committed ourselves to using the process of the Agreements to lay the foundations for the independence that we wish to build and to convince the other communities of the justice of our claims.

This commitment has led us to start out on the path together with those who until then had always kept our people out of the economic mainstream and denied us a share in the responsibilities and in the riches - namely, the French State, which holds sovereignty over our country, and the local champions of colonialism who hold the reigns of the economy and possess the political power.

In stating on 20 August 1988, when the Oudinot Agreements were concluded, that the Front was not solvent, our late lamented President, Jean-Marie Tjibaou, very accurately summed up this unequal situation in which the Front had nothing to place on the scale of the negotiations except its resolve and determination.

For his part, Jacques Lafleur, the Head of the RPCR and the most prominent businessman of the Territory, stated with respect to the Agreements that we had to know how to "give and forgive".

Without repudiating their respective convictions, the two main parties in the country with diametrically opposed views came to agreement on a kind of non-aggression pact for the sake of civil peace, social harmony and the

(Mr. Wamytan)

sharing of wealth. This unique undertaking, almost unprecedented in the history of decolonization, was a tremendous wager for the future.

Four years after the signing of the Matignon Agreements, the provincial and territorial institutions are in place and powers and functions have been progressively decentralized. The conditions are now ripe for the country to move forward on the path of economic and social development, for each of the signatory partners now has the tools it needs to implement the commitments undertaken at the signing of the Agreements in June and August 1988. Each of the institutions of the Territory has reached cruising speed and is now operating with its own full power.

The Northern and Islands Provinces are investing in the public infrastructure and basic capital goods. Just to mention a few examples, in the Northern Province we have the transversal road from Koné to Tiwaka, the agricultural training school at Pouembout, the general training secondary school and hospital in Poindimié, the vocational training school in Touho, the electrical power station in Népoui, the recent acquisition of a ferry boat for the Loyalty Islands, the construction of a wharf on the island of Ouvéa and the proposed construction of the Wé port in Lifou for the Islands Province.

A local economic fabric is emerging through a large number of micro-projects and the implementation of larger-scale economic undertakings. The large financial inputs from the South Pacific Mining Company, bought back in 1990 by the Northern Province, have made it possible to intervene on a large scale in the financing of a considerable number of large-scale projects. The main ones are: in the area of tourism, the Chateau Briand project in the island of Lifou, the Malabou tourist complex in Poum in the northern part of the territory, and the Club Med in Hienghè, in the

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north-eastern part of the Territory; in the area of mining, assistance in the construction of small Kanak mining companies; and in the area of aquaculture, the aquacole project in Voh.

In the health and social area, the two provinces have devoted a large part of their budget to implementing a policy of preventive health care in order to control health costs. In this framework, emphasis has been placed on the development of preventive and consciousness-raising campaigns, on the one hand, and the setting up of training programmes, on the other.

In the area of the social environment, the Northern and Islands Provinces have recently set up access plans for improving housing and living conditions in the tribal environment, in coordination with intercommunal structures which were created some 10 years ago.

Finally, in the area of training, the provinces, which now have the responsibility in regard to scholarships for higher education, have adopted a follow-up policy for the students that have decided to take their higher education in France. Therefore, a joint Northern and Islands Province spent two weeks in France meeting with all the Caledonian students there. It also took part in a symposium organized by those students whose main themes were the studies and needs of the Territory and the conditions required for success in the studies.

The Southern Province has centred its policy on the health, youth and social areas. The capital town of Nouméa is a veritable economic magnet and the site of most of the economic activities of the province and of the country: the small processing industry, of import-export and trading activities, banking, and so forth. Nouméa, Mont-Dore and Dumbéa are large communities and thus have sizeable budgets which enable them to fund a

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large number of capital-goods and public-infrastructure needs. The other southern communities do not benefit as much from interventions by the Southern Province because that province tends to use the means available to it to strengthen the hold of the RPCR over the economy of the Territory through the business world.

However, major development projects are under way in, above all, the tourist area: in Nouméa, a first-class, four-star hotel should open in the next few months and on the west coast in Bourail a tourist project is planned on some 8,000 hectares of land.

This rapid overview indicates that four years after the signing of the Matignon-Oudinot Agreements the country seems to be stabilizing the process undertaken at the institutional level. This picture shows a rapidly changing country and indicates also a positive advance in terms of the commitment of the various partners to attempt to solve the problems inherent in the colonial system in New Caledonia. Sharing and rebalancing - two key words in the spirit of the Matignon Agreements - seem to be becoming realities.

This positive view of the situation, however, needs to be qualified, in particular with respect to the political objectives that we had hoped to achieve in signing the Matignon Agreements. Our people have suffered a great deal in the past - we have often had occasion to mention that here - and since we have not won in terms of our fundamental positions in the negotiations, we have been calling for genuine measures to decolonize the country.

The Front has indeed called for the implementation of social, cultural and economic measures to put an end to a certain number of privileges, reduce the inequalities, and in all areas prepare the condition for genuine and acceptable independence.

(Mr. Wamytan)

At the end of 1992 we shall be making the first assessment of the implementation of the Agreements, to gauge the extent to which the commitments have been upheld by the various sides and to assess whether, in terms of political strategy and the balance of power, there has been positive development in regard to the independence option.

With respect to the electorate which will be voting in 1998, we would note once again the delay in implementing the review of the electoral lists.

The Front had called for measures to be taken to facilitate the participation of members in the commissions entrusted with the review. The review operations finished at the end of February 1992, and we do not feel that they took place in the best possible circumstances.

The amnesty for political prisoners is also a matter on which the State's promises have not been totally kept. Three cases have not yet been solved; one of them should be solved by a presidential pardon.

In the economic and social area, the stated objective was to study and put into operation the means of genuine independence. In order to do this, the factors of constantly increasing dependence on the mother country had to be dealt with. A number of matters constituted priorities in this framework.

(Mr. Wamytan)

First of all, the major subject of our campaign is taxation. Our position is simple: the wealth created in the Territory should serve primarily to finance the development of our country. We cannot help noting today the lack of willingness on the part of the RPCR to make progress in this area. Indirect taxation is still predominant and represents 65 per cent of the Territory's earnings in 1992, as against 35 per cent for direct taxation. The trend towards proliferating individual exemptions for certain privileged persons indicates how far we still have to go in order to reduce our country's dependence on the outside world. Because of the artificial nature of our economy which is based on a strong service sector fed by a constantly increasing shower of manna from the metropolitan country, we must act at once to reverse this trend. The taxation resources do exist locally. What we need is the political will to tap them within the limits of the major economic balances.

With respect to support for local development, a number of steps need to be taken in order to promote the access of small businessmen, particularly Kanaks, to the available funding resources and in order to set up a system for the collection of local savings. The Caledonian Participation Institute (CPI) has been set up, and proposals have been studied in the framework of the EEC association treaty. Unfortunately, we find that we are still waiting for the establishment of a genuine development bank. Similarly, the question of financing for activities within the Kanak reservations has not yet been resolved.

There are two main priorities in the area of land tenure: the continued return of lands to the Kanaks and the development of guidelines with respect to all the problems involved in "land, culture, independence and

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development". Our concern about this area is that the future of the Rural Development and Land Tenure Agency (ADRAF) is now being discussed as though the Kanak land claims had been settled once and for all. Actually, even though ADRAF is in the midst of restructuring - it may be mentioned that the conventions between the provinces and ADRAF have not been renewed for 1993 - it can no longer fully carry out its responsibilities of acquisition and redistribution because of a restricted budget, currently estimated at 170 million CFA francs.

The training of personnel is also a matter of priority for us. With respect to basic education, there is some reluctance to introduce the teaching of local vernacular languages in secondary-school programmes. Despite the overall good report from the Vice-Rector of New Caledonia, many difficulties have arisen at the start of the school this year, problems of finding places in the secondary schools, school transport, canteens and boarding. Similarly, the "400 trained personnel" operation tends nowadays to be aimed at secondary-school graduates. That was not what we had agreed to, since this was to be a catch-up operation, and the generations of Kanaks who have completed their secondary schooling should be able to pursue higher education, choosing normal university courses. Moreover, the persons trained in this operation do not necessarily find responsible jobs when they return to their country.

In the social field also, two major concerns had been expressed and were to be the subject of a voluntary policy pursued by the State: social housing and social protection.

Social housing is one of the subjects of concern and growing unease at the present time. The flow of migration to Nouméa not only from the northern

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and island provinces but also from the neighbouring Pacific islands, such as Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, or even from the metropolitan country, creates risks of a social explosion in the short term. There are already some early signs that this is happening, with the recent fire that devastated a large area of Nouméa and the proliferation of shanty towns in the poor quarters. This risk can be prevented only by a determination to put rebalancing into practice rapidly by giving the provinces the means they need to create the conditions that would anchor the populations in place and by giving the communes the necessary resources to finance the basic infrastructures that people need. But this problem needs to be combated right now by immediately setting up a set of regulations which will make it possible to take effective action against prohibitively high rents and against real-estate speculation. Our greatest concern in the area of rebalancing lies in the fact that the country's economy is tightly controlled from the southern provinces by the business world. This trend is disturbing in the long term because it accentuates the preponderant weight of the urban areas and continues to block the development of an economic fabric in the interior and in the islands. If this trend continues, it may foreshadow a troubling political situation of de facto partition.

In order to reverse this trend, FLNKS constantly calls on its partners to join in providing incentives that would promote private investment in the northern and island provinces. The example of partnership was given by provincial communities at the level of public investment, but this principle is yet to be accepted in the private sector, which seems not at all convinced about it at present. Is this attitude due to a lack of confidence in the capacity of Kanak leaders in the northern and island provinces to provide a

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minimum of security for private investment? Is it because there is a panic fear about investing in those two provinces in the absence of a political response to what will happen after the self-determination referendum of 1998? Is it an attitude resulting from the intrinsic ambiguity of the Matignon Agreement? These are questions which require attention and will continue to require it until some highly motivated and confident businessmen are willing to make the same bet as the politicians and to take risks that can bring a harmonious future for the Territory.

Four years have elapsed since the signing of the Matignon Agreement. We cannot say that nothing has been achieved, but there is still much to be done in order to achieve all the objectives of the FLNKS.

Along with political action in the true sense, attitudes must also change; I am speaking, in particular of the spirit of subservience that is increasingly developing among our population. That may be the result of the "easy" money which makes people look for handouts and expect to have everything given to them instead of taking control of their own destiny.

The coming political battle will be a difficult one for the Kanak people. The changes that we hoped for are being achieved only slowly and at the cost of considerable effort, and the facts are far from showing a genuine political will on the part of our partners. The second half of 1992 will therefore be decisive in the political field. Two electoral events require our attention.

First, there is the referendum on the Maastricht Treaty, to be held on 20 September 1992. This has always been a political concern because of its consequences in the area of immigration, the participation of European citizens in local elections and the competition that they would represent for

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the economy of the Territory. These questions still have not been addressed, and we are looking for clear-cut answers from the French Government with respect to the impact of the single market on our country.

The second event is the French legislative elections in March 1993. The probable return of the "right" to power in the French Republic is disturbing to us despite the assurances given by the various leaders of the French opposition that the political thrust of the Matignon Agreement would be maintained. The leader of the RPCR, Jacques Lafleur, has already made his speeches more radical in order to avoid castigating those positions of the FLNKS which are contrary to his ambitions. This radicalization is the prelude to a strengthening of the rightist position in New Caledonia with the support of a right-wing government in France after the legislative elections of 1993. The immediate risk would be that of moving towards a situation in which the Matignon Agreement would become merely a hollow shell.

(Mr. Wamytan)

Recent developments in the political situation in our country, together with future political circumstances, prompt the FLNKS to reaffirm to the United Nations our hope that the Kanak cause will remain a matter of concern and that New Caledonia will be kept on the list of countries to be decolonized.*

I also wish to express the hope that your Committee will take into account the resolution concerning the question of New Caledonia which was adopted by the 23rd Pacific Forum, held recently at Honiara, Solomon Islands. In addition, we welcome the initiative taken by the United Nations designating 1993 as the Year of Indigenous Peoples.

The FLNKS wishes to state once again that the Kanak people cannot compromise on what is the essence of its political struggle: full sovereignty over its country. The affirmation of this principle, which forms the basis of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), repeatedly reaffirmed by the Assembly since 1986, is a fundamental guarantee for our cause. The events that have shaken the whole world in the last decade of the twentieth century make it clear that the struggle of the Kanak people is still a timely one.

I should like to take advantage of this opportunity to congratulate the new countries admitted here as Member States. The United Nations has declared the decade of the 1990s to be the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. This is an extraordinary opportunity for all small peoples. The Kanak people would not want to be left once again out of the mainstream of this movement of peoples' emancipation that is sweeping our planet. We hope

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* The Chairman took the Chair.

(Mr. Wamytan)

that our people may enter the twenty-first century as a free people. The support of the United Nations is now more important than ever.

I appeal once again for vigilance for our cause, and I should like, in conclusion, to express the support, solidarity and friendship the FLNKS offers to all peoples struggling for freedom. On behalf of the Kanak people, I thank the fraternal countries of the Pacific Forum and those of the Non-Aligned Movement for their constant support. Lastly, I should like to say how grateful the Kanak people is for the support given by the United Nations.

The petitioner withdrew.

QUESTION OF WESTERN SAHARA (A/AC.109/1125)

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to draw members' attention to a working paper prepared by the Secretariat, contained in document A/AC.109/1125.

If there are no speakers, then, taking account of related developments, I shall take it that, subject to any directives which the General Assembly may give in that connection at its forthcoming session and in order to facilitate the Fourth Committee's consideration of the question, the Special Committee decides to transmit to the General Assembly all relevant documentation.

It was so decided.

QUESTION OF NEW CALEDONIA (A/AC.109/1120 and A/AC.109/L.1787) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of the Solomon Islands, who will speak on behalf of the South Pacific Forum.

Mr. BATA' ANISIA (Solomon Islands): I have the honour to address the Special Committee on behalf of the South Pacific (SOPAC) member countries, a group of State Members of the United Nations which are also members of the South Pacific Forum. It is a particular pleasure to address my remarks to

(Mr. Bata' Anisia,
Solomon Islands)

you, Sir, as a representative of a fellow Forum member country, a fraternal South Pacific nation and a country which achieved its independence with the full involvement of the United Nations. I congratulate you on your assumption of the Chair of the Special Committee, and I am certain you will guide the Committee's deliberations wisely and skilfully.

Decolonization has a special place in the deliberations of the South Pacific Forum, as a result of the history of all its members and the fact that South Pacific islands figure prominently on the list of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories whose progress towards self-determination this Committee is charged with overseeing. As in the past, the Forum Heads of Government, at the recent meeting at Honiara, Solomon Islands, paid special attention to the Territory of New Caledonia. They noted the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote equitable political, economic and social development in the Territory in order to provide a framework for its peaceful evolution towards self-determination.

The Forum

"was encouraged by the continuing progress made in implementation of the Matignon Accords and reiterated its full support for the process being conducted under the Accords".

The Forum

"noted that the forthcoming mid-term review of the Accords would be important in ensuring that progress was maintained towards the decolonization of the Territory".

(Mr. Bata' Anisia, Solomon Islands)

The Forum expressed the hope that the French authorities and others would continue to expand their assistance for education and training opportunities for the Kanak population, in order to enable all New Caledonians to exercise their right to self-determination under the best possible conditions. The Forum was convinced that, besides equitable economic and social development, transparency in preparation of the electoral rolls and continued dialogue among all parties in New Caledonia were important in ensuring an act of self-determination consistent with the principles and practice of the United Nations in which all options, including independence, were open and which would safeguard the rights of the indigenous Kanaks and of all other New Caledonians. The Forum reiterated the hope that the French authorities would facilitate regular visits to New Caledonia by visiting missions from the United Nations. The Forum welcomed the increasing contacts between New Caledonia and the countries of the Forum, including greater participation of representatives of the Territory in technical committees, workshops and seminars organized by the Forum Secretariat.

(Mr. Bata' Anisia, Solomon Islands)

The Forum resolved to continue to encourage these links. The Forum expressed the belief that New Caledonia was an integral part of the South Pacific region and that strengthening cooperation between Forum members and New Caledonia was a positive contribution to the process of political and economic rebalancing in the Territory. The Forum expressed its appreciation of the constructive attitude being taken by all involved, including the Government of France, to facilitate further development of these links.

The Forum agreed that its Ministerial Committee on New Caledonia had a continuing role to play in liaison between the Forum and the Territory and in ensuring that the Forum would maintain active and vigilant observation of developments, including work towards the formulation of the questions to be asked during the referendum in 1998. The Forum believes that the Committee's work will be particularly valuable after the mid-term review of the Accords. It was the Forum's hope that the French and Territorial authorities would continue to facilitate the work of the Committee.

You, Sir, and you colleagues will recall that, for the past four years, the Special Committee and, subsequently, the General Assembly have adopted resolutions on New Caledonia by consensus. It is our belief that consensus is again the most desirable and constructive outcome this year, reflecting the consensual approach being taken in New Caledonia to the self-determination process under the Matignon Accords, and expressing the support of the United Nations for that purpose. The draft resolution which the Committee has before it is the fruit of wide consultation undertaken in a spirit of moderation and compromise and with the interests of the people of New Caledonia uppermost in the drafters' minds. I have the honour to express the support of the

(Mr. Bata' Anisia, Solomon Islands)

delegations of the South Pacific Forum for the draft resolution and for its adoption by consensus.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will continue consideration of the item at a subsequent meeting with a view to taking action on the draft resolution.

QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS) (A/AC.109/1122 and A/AC.109/L.1786) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: In connection with this item, members have before them a working paper prepared by the Secretariat, contained in document A/AC.109/1122, as well as draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1786, to which members' attention was drawn at the 1405th meeting. I understand that a corrigendum to the working paper will be issued in due course.

I wish to inform members that the delegation of Argentina has indicated its wish to participate in the Committee's consideration of this question. In accordance with established practice, if I hear no objection, I shall now invite the delegation of Argentina to take a place at the Committee table.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the delegation of Argentina took a place at the Committee table.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Venezuela to introduce the draft resolution.

Mr. ARRIA (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): It always gives my delegation particular satisfaction to see you, Sir, presiding over our meetings. Venezuela is honoured once again to join with Chile in sponsoring this draft resolution in the context of our unswerving commitment to decolonization issues and in the desire to contribute to the solution of a long-standing dispute between two countries with which we maintain excellent relations.

(Mr. Arria, Venezuela)

The draft resolution follows the same guidelines as last year's. Thus, on this occasion we need only mention the concern expressed in its preambular paragraphs at the fact that the negotiations on the Malvinas (Falkland Islands) have not resumed, despite the time that has elapsed since the adoption of resolution 2065 (XX) in 1965 and the good current state of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom.

We fully support the affirmation that the only way to put an end to the special colonial situation of the Malvinas is a peaceful and negotiated solution of the sovereignty dispute between the two States. In this regard, Foreign Minister Di Tella of Argentina, in his statement to the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly on 26 September 1991, said the following:

> "Additional proof of our willingness to cooperate and our commitment to international peace and security can be seen in our excellent and mutually beneficial current relations with the United Kingdom. This has occurred under the umbrella of a formula agreed upon with the British Government that protects the inalienable sovereign rights of Argentina over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands.
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> "Concerning this issue I reiterate that the Argentine Government believes that the new climate between the two countries should also - at the right time - facilitate the resumption of negotiations regarding sovereignty as this General Assembly has repeatedly requested."
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> (A/46/PV.5, pp. 25-26)

We too can only repeat our appeal for acceptance of the Argentine Government's initiative, which should lead as soon as possible to the effective resumption of negotiations. Lastly, we hope that, in the best

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interests of all parties concerned, this draft resolution will be adopted by all the members of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Argentina to address the Committee.

Mr. CHIARADIA (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like first of all to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the chairmanship of the Special Committee on decolonization and to convey to you my delegation's and my own particular pleasure at seeing you as Chairman of this important body. We know that your diplomatic abilities and thorough knowledge of the issues involved, as well as your commitment to the decolonization process, will contribute to strengthening and extending this Committee's achievements. I also wish to congratulate the other members of the Bureau and the secretariat staff, who, through their dedication and efforts, are cooperating to ensure the efficient functioning of this body.

As in every year, my delegation would now like to take advantage of its presence in this forum to express Argentina's gratitude to the Special Committee for having played an outstanding role over the past 30 years in building a more just and harmonious world in greater solidarity. We have no doubt that it will be able to continue carrying out its mandate, so that it may finally, in the near future, achieve a world free of colonialism.

(Mr. Chiaradia, Argentina)

I also thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Committee for allowing the delegation of Argentina to participate in the debate on the question of the Malvinas Islands. Of course, the decisions of this body are of great importance to the Argentines, because the question of the Malvinas Islands, with their 159-year history, has a permanent place in the feelings and interests of the people of my country.

From the very beginning of its existence as an independent nation, the Republic of Argentina, through various Government acts, manifested its political will to consolidate the nation in the southern seas and lands, exercising effective sovereignty in the islands inherited from Spain. In 1833 the British occupation and the expulsion of the local population and authorities interrupted this process. The Republic of Argentina never gave its consent to this act of force. Once again, my delegation must formally express in this forum the determination of the Government and the people of Argentina to recover, through diplomatic means, the exercise of its territorial sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands.

In the context of our diplomatic initiatives and work in the United Nations, the international community echoed our claims very early on in the General Assembly and through its resolution 2065 (XX), which recognized the existence of a dispute between our country and the United Kingdom concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, and established that this dispute should be resolved through negotiations between the parties, bearing in mind the interests of the population of the Islands. The General Assembly thus defined the Malvinas question as a special, particular colonial case, placing its solution in the framework of the application of the principle of

(Mr. Chiaradia, Argentina)

territorial integrity as envisaged in operative paragraph 6 of resolution 1514 (XV).

Similarly, the Organization of American States has repeatedly expressed - most recently this past June, in the Bahamas, in a resolution that was distributed as United Nations document A/47/319 - the unanimous support of its member countries for the search for a peaceful solution and the resumption of negotiations between the two parties in order to achieve a definitive settlement of the dispute over sovereignty.

My Government is certain that the strengthening of contacts between Argentina and the United Kingdom based on the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries, which took place in February 1990, should lead to a solution to this conflict between the two nations. Regarding the actual question of the Malvinas Islands, the cooperation agreements on fisheries and, more recently, the beginning of talks on oil are further instances of progress towards strengthening the favourable climate between the two countries.

For the information of the Special Committee, I should like to point out some key events that have taken place since the last session of this Committee in the bilateral relations between my country and the United Kingdom.

In September 1991, at the conclusion of the fifth meeting of the Argentine-British working group on South Atlantic matters, a joint declaration was issued with the objective of moving towards normalizing the situation in the southwestern Atlantic. This declaration modified the Reciprocal Information and Consultation System - established in February 1990 - on the movements and manoeuvres of military units of both States. Agreement was also reached on a substantive change that led to greater flexibility in the System

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for naval units, as well as the normalization of civilian and military air transit following the rules and regulations internationally accepted in this area.

A few months later, two meetings of the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission were held, one in London in December 1991 and the other in Buenos Aires in May of this year. The mandate of this Commission includes evaluation of the situation of the most significant high-seas species in the sea space in the zone between latitudes 45 and 60 degrees south. In these meetings, joint scientific research projects were proposed, and ways to enhance cooperation in order to prevent illegal fishing in the South Atlantic were considered. Likewise, it was recommended that for one more year, beginning in December 1991, the temporary total prohibition on all commercial fishing be renewed for vessels of any flag in areas surrounding the Malvinas Islands; this prohibition was established by the Fisheries Commission in 1990 with the purpose of protecting the species of the area.

In December 1991 it was decided to establish a high-level group to explore the implications of legislative measures on the continental shelf announced by Argentina and the United Kingdom on 22 November 1991, as well as possibilities for cooperation in any of the activities deriving from these measures. That group met on two occasions, in February and July of this year, in Buenos Aires and London, respectively, to exchange ideas in this regard. On the last occasion, they agreed to continue this procedure through diplomatic channels and to hold another meeting of the high-level group in order to reach rapid agreement on the subjects under consideration.

We should also recall that all of these meetings were held under a formula that safeguards the position of both Governments with respect to

(Mr. Chiaradia, Argentina)

sovereignty or territorial and maritime jurisdiction over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime space, as agreed upon by Argentina and the United Kingdom and contained in paragraph 2 of the Joint Declaration of Madrid, dated 19 October 1989.

In the post-cold-war world and with the proliferation of contacts between the Republic of Argentina and the United Kingdom, the continuance of this dispute over sovereignty based on a colonial situation is anachronistic, but even more difficult to explain is the lack of progress in responding to the international community's appeal that a bilateral approach be taken in settling this dispute.

For our part, in addition to reiterating once again our desire to seek through peaceful means, work and imagination a just and lasting solution to this dispute in which the interests of the inhabitants of the islands will be duly taken into account, we urge the United Kingdom to help us in this effort and, adhering to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, to respond favourably to the request of the majority of the international community by reviewing its position and agreeing to tackle this question with a genuine will to negotiate on the basis of what has been achieved through the strengthening of mutual trust.

(Mr. Chiaradia, Argentina)

The Special Committee has before it draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1786, sponsored by the Committee's two South American members, Chile and Venezuela, and eloquently introduced by the Permanent Representative of Venezuela, Ambassador Diego Arria. I convey my fraternal thanks to those two countries, and stress that by supporting the draft resolution the Committee would be contributing to the peaceful negotiated settlement of the bilateral dispute on sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, and would be cooperating in putting an end to a dispute that began early in the nineteenth century but should not be allowed to continue into the twenty-first. My delegation will be deeply grateful for the support of members for this draft resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: I now put to the vote draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1786.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1786 was adopted by 20 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus concluded its consideration of this item.

ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/AC.109/1117 TO 1119 AND 1124) (continued)

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION WHICH MIGHT BE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/AC.109/1103, 1110 AND 1113) (continued)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN (A/AC.109/L.1785; E/1992/85); REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/47/281) (continued)

Mr. SENILOLI (Fiji): As this is my first statement in this Committee, may I congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the chairmanship of the Committee.

First, I wish to thank the Secretariat for working papers A/AC.109/L.1103, 1110 and 1113, which inform us of the presence of military installations and bases in three Non-Self-Governing Territories. All these military installations are maintained by the administering Powers, and in one case two other foreign Powers have military installations in the same Territory. All these Non-Self-Governing Territories enjoy financial and economic benefits because of the presence of these installations.

The Special Committee is to review the question whether military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Military installations and bases are the creation of administering Powers, and as such are impositions on the territorial Governments. They take up precious land, and the mere presence of such military bases brings an element of risk to the general population. Hence, the call for administering

(Mr. Seniloli, Fiji)

Powers to take all necessary measures not to involve Territories in which they have bases in any offensive acts or in interference against other States is a fair one.

In the decolonization process, negotiations on military installations and bases are going to be delicate and time-consuming. The success of the negotiations will depend to a great extent on the good will of the administering Powers, as in all cases the bases are closely linked to their national security.

In looking through the reports, my delegation welcomes the efforts of the administering Powers in taking steps to surrender to territorial Governments land which is no longer needed for military purposes. In other instances, plans are being put in place to close down some of the military installations.

We are also mindful of the adverse effects of such close-downs of installations: direct employment of the local populations will be lost and many others who supply support services will lose out as well. It is my delegation's hope that once military installations are closed down, substitutes will be put in place that will enable the local populations to reap a similar level of benefits.

Remembering that the cold war has ended and that most armies are making huge reductions, my delegation feels that this item no longer merits the adoption of a draft resolution. This could simply be incorporated into the "omnibus" draft resolution: it could be included as an operative paragraph in part B referring to the Territory in question. Reference to military installations is already included in part B of the draft resolution on Bermuda. I make this suggestion with the thought that the bases should be dealt with on a country-by-country basis.

Mrs. KING-ROUSSEAU (Trinidad and Tobago): Mr. Chairman, you were good enough to circulate this morning an aide-mémoire concerning a request for a hearing on the item dealing with the implementation of the Declaration by specialized agencies. At this stage, my delegation would just like to ask what action you intend to take on this matter, or when we shall be taking a decision on this specific request.

The CHAIRMAN: The officers of the Committee will take up this matter at our meeting which is to be held immediately following the adjournment of this meeting, and that we inform the Committee at its next meeting of our suggestions.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.